

# **“Consider Your Ways”**

## **Haggai 1:1-7**

### Introduction

- I. How often do we let our personal issues cause us to lose our spiritual focus?
- II. Are we guilty of putting ourselves before God and the church?
- III. Long ago, the people of Judah did that very thing, and their example is our lesson to learn.

### Discussion

- I. For almost fifteen years, the Temple had not been rebuilt since Judah returned from Babylonian captivity (Ezra 3:8; Hag. 1:1-2).
  - A. Opposition had arisen, and the people of Judah stopped working on the Temple (Ezra 4:9-24).
  - B. When Haggai begins, the almost fifteen years has passed.
  - C. Nothing more had been done in building the Temple, but much had been done in the personal lives of Judah (Hag. 1:3-6).
    1. How often do we allow our personal desires and worldly affairs keep us from doing the work that the Lord wants done?
    2. God wanted the people to “Consider your ways” (Hag. 1:7).
    3. In like manner, we should consider our ways (Matt. 6:33; Eph. 4:1-3).
    4. Some priorities will change with time, but our service and faithfulness to God should never change.
- II. The Temple was to be rebuilt and glory was to go to God (Hag. 1:8-15).
  - A. The people of Judah had finally gotten their proverbial “wake up call.”
  - B. It was necessary for them to adjust their minds and bodies.
    1. Nothing should become more important to us than doing God's will.
    2. Maybe we need a “wake up call” sometimes.
    3. Perhaps the ones around us can see that need more than ourselves.
    4. Perhaps complacency had developed over the years, and it felt normal not to do the work.
  - C. If a loving brother or sister approaches us with a concern, then we should consider our ways.
    1. We should be grateful that we are loved.
    2. We should use it as an opportunity to grow.
- III. Application should be made by Christians.
  - A. We can be confident, even if it does appear that way to us, that when we do God's will it is noticed and approved (Hag. 2:1-5).
  - B. The Hebrews writer used a reference in Haggai to make a point to Christians (Hag. 2:6; Heb. 12:26, 28).

### Conclusion

- I. Let us consider our ways, and be honest with ourselves.
- II. If we are lacking, even if it has been for years, then we need to get busy doing what we should.